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# I Wanna Rebel to Yankee Editor, Sir, 15 October 1956

I Wanna Rebel

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Mint Julep, Mississippi  
October 15, 1956

Dear Yankee Editor, Sir:

As I sit here on my front gallery sipping my bourbon and soda the birds are singing and everything is so peaceful and beautiful. I read in "the Old Reliable" where you have come and gone from this land of cotton, magnolia blossoms, and pure, unsullied Southern womanhood.

As guests of our State Gestapo you saw the things they wanted you to see — and from Ken Toler's writing I gather you saw and heard a few things the watchdogs had rather you missed.

Now that you're "safe" back home in free America and have had time to reflect on our superior culture and "way of life" here in the South you should just get down on your knees and thank the Man upstairs that the Secret Police of the State Sovereignty Commission didn't follow you home and stand over your shoulder as you write your "piece" on Mississippi.

Not that it makes much difference what you write — we know a good thing when we have it — and we white, pure-blooded Christian Gentiles of the South intend to keep segregation regardless of what you or anyone else says — and we've got our Citizens Councils to back us up. Also, within time we are going to liberate you fine Yankee folks from the evils of integration. You'll hear more later from our Councils on this.

I sure hope you had a fine time in Mississippi and I hope you come back again — and if our good Southern Negroes ever recover from the shock they got when a white man asked some of them what they thought — they'll be glad you came too.

A lot of us white folks are glad about your visit.

It's awful dark down here — maybe you can help turn on the light.

Respectfully, Sir

I Wanna Rebel.

P.S. The enclosed piece of literature furnished the only good laugh I've had since May, 1954. Thought maybe you might enjoy it now that you've been "down South."

I.W.R.